

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN HENRY CUELLAR  
28<sup>TH</sup> Congressional District of Texas  
118<sup>th</sup> Congress

**Event:** McMullen Operation Stonegarden Announcement

**Date:** Friday, September 1, 2023 (Speaking Duration: 3-4 minutes)

**Location:** McMullen County Courthouse, 501 River St, Tilden, TX 78073

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## **Acknowledgements**

- Good Morning
  
- Thank You
  - Emmett Shelton, McMullen County Sheriff
  - Louis Lem, McMullen County Chief Deputy

## **Remarks**

- I'm here today to announce a federal grant of **\$200,000 in federal funding for the McMullen County Sheriff's Department** from Operation Stonegarden, a program I helped create back in 2008.

- This funding is a testament to our unwavering commitment to supporting law enforcement who work tirelessly to secure our borders and protect our communities.
- As the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Appropriations, I am committed to ensuring you have the resources needed to carry out your duties effectively and safely.
- This federal grant will provide critical financial support for various aspects of law enforcement operations in McMullen County, including...
  - The county's overtime program and

- Equipment—specifically license plate readers and fuel
- These investments directly contribute to improved security in our border communities and faster emergency response times.
- And I'm proud to have worked closely with sheriffs across our district to secure this critical funding.
- Funding that also goes towards securing the U.S. border along routes of entry from Mexico with...
  - Overtime pay
  - Equipment
  - Communications technology and more
- In Congress, I fought for this legislation to include travel corridors in counties not directly adjacent to the border,

recognizing that security concerns extend beyond immediate borders.

- Year after year, I've used my position on the Appropriations Committee to advocate for increased funding for Operation Stonegarden, and our efforts have yielded positive results.
- In 2018, McMullen County received \$150,000 in Stonegarden funding.
- Today, the McMullen County Sheriff's Office is receiving \$200,000 for the third year in a row.
- In total, **McMullen County has received \$1,111,000 from Operation Stonegarden** since 2018.

<b>McMullen County Stonegarden Funding</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Funding</b>
2018	\$150,000
2019	\$178,000
2020	\$183,000
2021	\$200,000
2022	\$200,000
2023	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,111,000</b>

- The work you do is extremely valuable—not just to me, but our entire community.

- Therefore, I will continue working hard to provide you with the necessary resources to carry out your duties in the safest and most efficient manner possible.
- I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Sheriff Emmett Shelton and all law enforcement for your commitment to securing our communities along the southern border.

### **Closing Remarks**

- **Working together, I will continue to fight for:**
  - 1. Federal support that provides more for TX-28!*
  - 2. Increased federal funding for these types of initiatives!*
  - 3. And be your voice in Congress!*
- If you have any questions regarding funding opportunities, please contact, my Grants Coordinator, Randy Aguilar at:

[Randy.Aguilar@mail.house.gov](mailto:Randy.Aguilar@mail.house.gov) or call him at 956-812-1675

- Thank you, God bless and be safe.